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New Buffalo Times

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ROLLIN' INTO THE HOLIDAYS...

CHRISTMAS ARRIVES IN THREE OAKS

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PHOTO OF THE JOURNEYMEN DISTILLERY CAR MAKING ITS WAY DOWN ELM STREET BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

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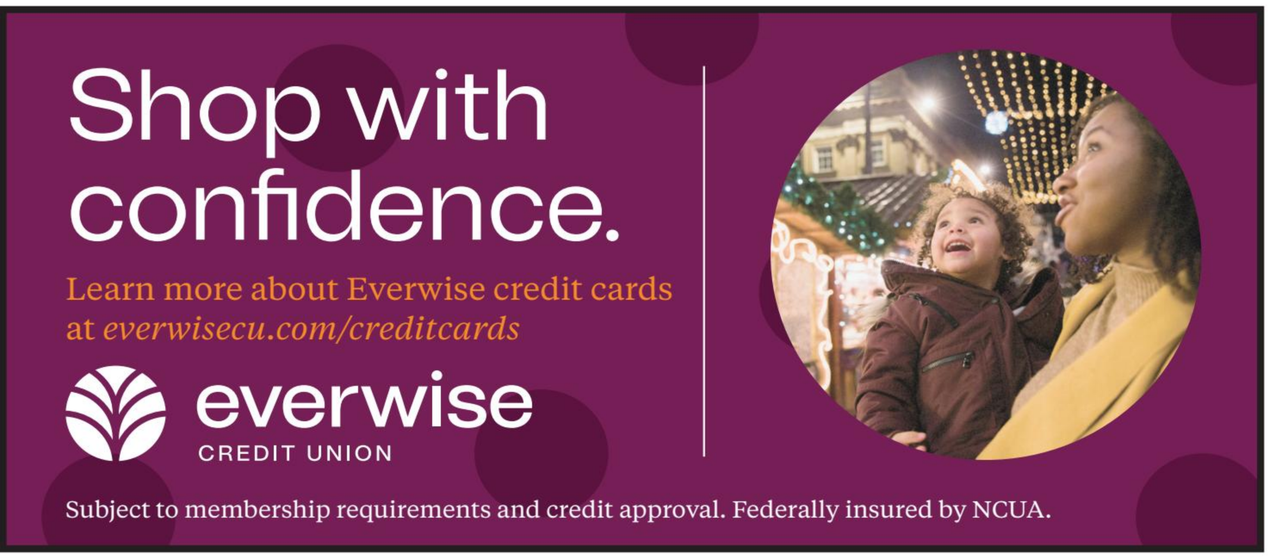
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Bud Court

Jr Teen Court

Teen Court

The 2024 Bud Prince and Princess, Miss Jr Teen and Miss Teen Blossomtime court crowned

There were 51 children between the ages of 6 and 15 who competed Sunday, Nov. 19, for the titles of Blossomtime Bud Prince and Princess, Miss Jr. Teen and Miss Teen Blossomtime at the St. Joseph High School Auditorium.

The theme for the show was "Thanksgiving Party" and the contestants performed a dance to the song "Thank You for Being a Friend." The pageant was emceed by Lindsay LeValley. The pageant sponsor was Fusion Center for Dance. This year's show producer was Christine Waterhouse.

The Blossomtime Festival Bud Prince and Princess, Miss Jr. Teen and Miss Teen is a time-honored tradition that began in the 1930s. These young titleholders will take an active role in the festival by serving as grand marshals of the youth parade and riding on the Bud Prince and Princess/Jr. Teen/Teen Float in the Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade Saturday, May 11, 2024, and will participate in many other Blossomtime events, including the Youth Coronation Ball, the Blessing of the Blossoms, attending many community pageants and being introduced on stage at the Mr. Blossomtime Pageant April 14, 2024.

Bud Princess is 7-year-old Ellie Current, who attends Maple Grove Elementary. The daughter of Rebecca Atherton and Garth Current, Ellie resides in Coloma and enjoys dancing, gymnastics and riding her horse, Molly.

Bud Princess First Runner-up Kaliope Morton is 8 years old and attends Sylvester Elementary. The daughter of Heather and Bob Morton, she resides in Berrien Springs and enjoys making friendship bracelets, dancing and playing video games with her brothers.

Bud Princess Second Runner-up is 8-year-old Mara Haynes of Niles. The daughter of Tina Dyer and Josh Haynes, she attends Eagle Lake Elementary and loves to draw and make art and is teaching herself to play the piano.

Bud Prince is Riggen Kivela, a 9-year-old who attends Brown School. The son of Rachel and Scott Kivela, he resides in St. Joseph and enjoys playing tennis, taking dance lessons and is a member of student council.

Bud Prince First Runner-Up is 8-year-old Peyton Fairbanks from Coloma. The son of Michelle and Josh Fairbanks, he attends Grace Christina and enjoys baseball, football and playing the piano and video games.

Miss Jr. Teen Blossomtime is 10-year-old Mila Grams of Stevensville. The daughter of Kalli and Paul Grams, she attends Roosevelt Elementary and participates in travel soccer and enjoys doing art, Legos and babysitting.

Miss Jr. Teen Blossomtime First Runner-up Brooklynn Grubb is 10 years old and resides in Berrien Springs. The daughter of Danai Peterson and Ronny Grubb Jr., she attends Sylvester Elementary and participates in softball, choir and tennis and enjoys riding horses.

Miss Jr. Teen Blossomtime Second Runner-up Harper Hughes is 10 years old and resides in Coloma. The daughter of Tiffany and Jessie Hughes, she attends Coloma Intermediate and participates in basketball, cheer and choir and enjoys organizing her bedroom.

Miss Teen Blossomtime Taylor Truman is 15 years old and lives in Benton Harbor. The daughter of Jackelyn and Joe Truman, she attends Coloma High School and participates in Equestrian, where she has won multiple champion and grand champion awards. She also enjoys snowboarding, wake surfing and camping.

Miss Teen Blossomtime First Runner-up Meilah Mitchell, 14, resides in Berrien Springs. The daughter of Lindsey and Stephan Mitchell, she attends Berrien Springs High School and participates in JV volleyball and varsity cheer and competitive cheer. She is also on the honor roll.

Miss Teen Blossomtime Second Runner-Up Grace Callahan is 14 years old and lives in St. Joseph. The daughter of Morgan and Joe Callahan, she attends Lakeshore High School and participates in softball and track. She also has received a bronze award for Girl Scouts.

Miss Teen Blossomtime, Congeniality Ashley Ramirez, 14, resides in Stevensville. The daughter of Debbie and Remie Ramirez, she attends Lakeshore High School and participates in volleyball, softball, band, and Color Guard. She is a three-year Presidential Honor Roll student. — STAFF REPORTS

To the mind that is still, the whole universe surrenders. *— Lao Tzu*

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Berrien County Health Department extends walk-in flu, COVID-19 vaccine clinics through December

In response to community demand, the Berrien County Health Department is offering its walk-in flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinics through December.

Flu and COVID-19 shots will be available at BCHD's Niles office, 1205 Front St., from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday and at its Benton Harbor office, 2149 E. Napier Avenue, from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday through Dec. 20. No appointments are necessary. The clinics previously were scheduled to end Nov. 29.

"We are pleased so many members of our community are getting vaccinated against the flu and COVID-19 during respiratory viral season," Health Officer Guy Miller said. "The health department is pleased to extend these walk-in clinics through December to help individuals protect themselves and their loved ones against illness."

In addition to vaccines, BCHD recommends following everyday preventive measures to stop the spread of germs, which include avoiding close contact with other people who are sick and staying home when you are sick; following the U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidance regarding isolation and masking if you test positive for COVID-19; covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing; washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, if soap and water are not available, using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth and practicing other good health habits, including getting plenty of sleep, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, drinking plenty of fluids and eating nutritious foods.

In terms of vaccines, BCHD recommends:

- Flu: Everyone 6 months and older should get this season's flu vaccine, which will protect against severe disease and hospitalization even though you might still get influenza if exposed. It's especially important to get this vaccine if you have an underlying medical condition such as obesity, asthma, heart disease, diabetes, emphysema or a suppressed immune system.
- COVID-19: Everyone 5 years and older should get the updated FDA-approved COVID-19 booster, now the monovalent mRNA from Moderna or Pfizer. For infants and children 6 months to 5 years, for whom it is still being given under Emergency Use Authorization from the FDA, the vaccine decreases the risk of hospitalization and ICU stay, even for those who have no medical risk factors. It also reduces the risk of long COVID in children and adults. For older adults, the highest risk group, a COVID-19 vaccine reduces the risk of hospitalization and intensive care stay.

If you are unable to attend one of the walk-in flu clinics, BCHD is scheduling appointments for flu shots. To schedule a flu shot appointment, call BCHD at 269-927-5616. You can schedule your COVID-19 vaccine at multiple locations.

For more information on seasonal respiratory viruses, visit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. — STAFF REPORTS

The point of modern propaganda isn't only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth.
— Garry Kasparov

SCHOOL OF AMERICAN MUSIC WINTER RECITAL AT THE ACORN

The School of American Music's Winter Recital, featuring intermediate to advanced student and instructor solo and duet performances, will be held at The Acorn, 107 Generations Drive, Three Oaks, for the first time at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10.

The recital is free admission and is an excellent way for the community and region to sample what the School of American Music of Three Oaks has to offer.

"The School of American Music and The Acorn have formed a partnership, which will include some programming at The Acorn throughout the year for recitals and fundraising events," Tom Flint, the School of American Music (SAM) president, said.

"The SAM Board of Directors, instructors and students and their families are very excited about this new partnership. They look forward to the many possibilities the partnership will bring." Donna Mitchell, SAM executive director, said.

For more information about the School of American Music or the recital, please contact SAM at 269-409-1191 or schoolofamericanmusic@gmail.com, or visit the website www.schoolofamericanmusic.com. The Acorn's website is www.acornlive.org. — STAFF REPORTS

SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo Class of 2024 commencement date set

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The New Buffalo High School Class of 2024 commencement ceremony will be at 8 p.m. Saturday, June 1, at the multiplex field, New Buffalo Area Schools Superintendent Adam Bowen said at the Monday, Nov. 27, New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education meeting, with a rain date set for the following day at 8 p.m. at the field.

Bowen said that the time has been pushed back further so that it would be dark enough for the fireworks display, which is after the ceremony. Guests will be sitting in the bleachers, as opposed to chairs set up on the field in front of the stage.

The fireworks began when the Class of 2020 graduated during the Covid-19 pandemic. Board president Lisa Werner said that, while they were having them for 2024, they should have a discussion about the cost, as the display could be expensive and fundraising may need to occur. Noise complaints from residents, particularly how it affects their pets, also needs to be considered.

Bowen added that it also costs money for the district to apply for a special permit with the city.

Board members learned that Bowen has approved the employment of Jenna Wendel as elementary administrative assistant, effective Dec. 6.

She will replace Cindy King, whose last day was in October.

Bowen said that there were around 15 applicants, who were screened by a committee. The most qualified underwent a skills test, with four applicants being interviewed. The committee recommended the top two to Bowen, who interviewed them.

Bowen said that Wendel has about 18 years of experience as an administrative assistant, and that she's been in the same doctor's office for over 18 years.

Last weekend, members of the New Buffalo High School Band arrived back home from a trip to Walt Disney World over Thanksgiving.

Band members participate in a clinic at Walt Disney World

Members of the New Buffalo High School Band at Walt Disney World

School board student member Libby Lamport said that while they didn't get to march and perform down there due to the band's size, they did get to do a clinic and play some Disney music "which was really cool."

Per the New Buffalo Bands Facebook, students worked with a professional musician and recording technician at Epcot, who taught them about working as a professional musician for movie soundtracks.

A holiday band concert is on tap for 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, in the Performing Arts Center.

With regards to the ongoing kitchen/cafeteria remodel at the elementary school, Bowen said that the footings have been formed and will hopefully be put up sometime this week along with the foundation walls, which will be hopefully poured this week.

The camera exterior upgrades are almost complete at the middle/high school building, with the Genetec software having been installed. Work on the door entry on the two main areas where students enter the middle school side and high school side has begun.

"I would say in a couple weeks we'll know how that project is going to turn out, with also the Genetec system," he said, adding that the project will hopefully be functional before or after Christmas.

The flashing light at the elementary school's speed sign has been "hit or miss," with Bowen saying that K & K Systems was scheduled to come this week to repair a faulty part.

Regarding the Amtrak train derailment that occurred in New Buffalo Township two weeks ago Bowen said that the school district deployed four buses to pick up 200 passengers at the Amtrak scene and everything went "smoothly." The district also received an email from one of the passengers thanking them for opening the school.

Bowen thanked staff members who helped.

"We learned a couple of things and we're going to put that in place and hopefully we'll never have to worry about that again - but if we do, we'll be more and better prepared next time," he said.

Improvement expected from still young Bison hoopsters

BY STAN MADDUX

They won just two games last year with mostly freshmen and inexperienced players but hopes this season are higher for the New Buffalo High School boys' basketball team.

Another year of physical maturity helped by off season workouts in the weight room and schooling on fundamentals could produce noticeable improvement on the hardwood.

Head Coach Nate Tripp isn't ready to make any predictions except the level of play from his team will be higher.

"We're going to be an interesting team. I don't know if we're ready to take that next step yet but we're certainly going to be much improved over last year," he said.

All of the starters and other key players from last year's sometimes crowd pleasing scrappy team are back, including Sam Tripp, Lucas Forker, Nick Haskins and James Shaw, who are now sophomores.

"If they keep developing, we're really excited about the future," he said.

Also returning are seniors Elliot Bourne and Andres Becera, who will be counted on for scoring and defense.

Tripp said the players were pushed hard during the off season, which included games against teams from larger schools like Edwardsburg and Dowagiac.

Good things are also expected from junior M'Nason Smothers, who Tripp described as the "most athletic player, by far, on the squad."

A lot of time was invested since last season developing the once raw 5'8" Smothers, who's quick, fast and can also slam dunk the basketball.

Occasionally, Smothers could be used to help the 6'3" Forker defend the opponent's tallest players because of his jumping ability.

"We expect him to have an expanded role this year," he said.

Fans should also expect to see the same intensity from the players, who maintained a hard-nosed, aggressive style of play last season even in games when they were losing badly in the first half.

There should also be no shortage of the confidence his players often exhibited last year even while losing badly.

"They don't hang their head if they miss a shot. They don't take a shot thinking they're going to miss it. They're a pretty confident group. They're going to be a lot of fun," he said.

The Bison begin the season Friday, Dec. 1, on the road against last year's Division 4 champion Eau Claire.

The Beavers lost a lot of seniors but some of those spots on the roster have been filled by players from last year's very strong junior varsity team.

Tripp said his players lacking physical strength last year added some muscle and athletic ability to their frames during the off-season workouts.

"We didn't have enough strength. That was one area of focus. We got to get stronger and we did. We're not there yet. We still have a long ways to go but we took a step in the right direction," he said.

Off season honors for Lady Bison volleyball

BY STAN MADDUX

There's no shortage of accolades for players on this season's New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team.

Senior Ava Johnson and junior Jane Funk made the all division squad in the Berrien Cass St. Joseph Conference.

New Buffalo plays in the BCS division consisting of similar sized schools like River Valley, Michigan Lutheran, Our Lady of the Lake and Howardsville Christian.

Johnson, who was the setter for the team, ended her three years in volleyball at the varsity level with 1,181 assists.

Funk, who's been a main player for spikes of the ball at the net since making the varsity as a freshman, has a chance to exceed 1,000 career kills next season, said Head Coach Bruce Molineaux.

Johnson and Funk were also named to the Michigan High School Athletic Association's All-Region team for Division 3 and Division 4 schools.

Junior Meagan Fatter and sophomore Colleen Chlystun were named to the BCS honorable mention squad.

Johnson along with Libby Lamport also made the all- academic team at the state level, an award restricted to senior players.

The Lady Bison (19-13-2) were among the teams named all-academic statewide with players having a combined 3.6 grade point average.

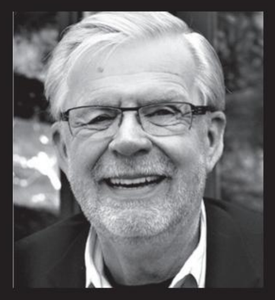
"They're all good girls. They work hard. They're a good group to coach," Molineaux said.

Molineaux said Johnson and Lamport are among the four seniors he's losing to graduation but next year's team should still be very competitive with a lot of returning core players like Funk, Chlystun, Fatter and Benita Puskinigus.

SPORTS

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO



Every once in a while we should all take a deep breath, stop worrying about all the things that may be troubling us, and start to think about everything we are thankful for.

Thanksgiving, of course, is the time to be thankful, so I have a proposal. As a country, we have so many holidays that adding just one more doesn't seem to be too much to ask. So what do you think? Six months after the traditional Thanksgiving, or sometime around Memorial Day, we could double down on our thanks.

So when you stop to think about it, what are some of the things we are thankful for? For me, family and friends are at the top of the list. I spent Thanksgiving day with my family and a few friends. The age range was from three to 97, and we all had an amazing time.

The food was delicious and the company was great. Im so thankful for my family that even if we don't create a second Thanksgiving holiday, I'm going to feel lucky every day of the year.

Friends are another reason I'm thankful. I've been blessed with many good friends, some of whom are life long. I still am close with a couple of friends that have been friends for over seventy years. I have friends who live all over the United States. My best friend passed away a few years ago and a few have passed since, but I'm thankful they were in my life and helped shape me into the person I am today.

Almost everyone has family and friends to be thankful for. Make sure you let them know how important they are to you.

Even though I'm getting up there in age, most days I feel just fine. Thanks to advances in medicine and the healthcare I receive from my doctors I can get out of bed in the morning and lead the same lifestyle I always have, except now I do it much more slowly. I've had a few health issues in my life, but I'm thankful that a higher power has always been there looking out for me.

There are so many other things that I'm thankful for.

Because this is a sports column, I'll also mention that I'm thankful for being a fan of Chicago sports and witnessing some of the finest men compete at the highest level.

Jonathan Toews was the captain of the three time Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks and has been a pleasure to root for, Michael Jordan of the Bulls was the greatest player and fiercest competitor ever. Walter Payton and Dick Butkus of the Bears were the best on the field as well as off. Ernie Banks (let's play two), and Frank Thomas of the Cubs and Sox were baseball icons and great men. I'm thankful to have witnessed these wonderful men and athletes.

Teachers, coaches, I could go on and on.

I'm thankful for so many things. Right now, I'm thankful that you took the time to read this column.

Nitya Prakash said "I'm just thankful for the people that never left me and equally thankful for those that did."

Be kind Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

I go in beast mode for that pape ..
— Devin Haney

Plastic pumpkin removed from head of deer

BY STAN MADDUX

A deer just outside LaPorte is now free of the plastic pumpkin stuck over its face while roaming the countryside for about two weeks.

After numerous sightings, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources contacted a veterinarian, who sedated the deer with a tranquilizer gun Friday, Nov. 24, in the 300 block of Bordeaux Drive.

There were growing concerns about the adult-sized doe's ability to survive from her mouth and snout being totally inside the hollow plastic jack-o'-lantern.

Dr. Larry Smith, who examined the deer after firing a tranquilizer into it from about 35 feet away, said the animal was a little underweight but still in "relatively good shape."

He also said the animal did not appear dehydrated.

DNR Conservation Officer Tyler Brock said there was some water at the bottom of the orange bowl shaped pumpkin when it was removed from the head of the deer.

Brock said that leads him to believe the deer bobbed her head into nearby Pine Lake or a stream to fill the container with water.

He said water could have seeped in from the gaps between her face and upper rim of the pumpkin for her to drink at the bottom.

He didn't see how it would be possible for the deer to have eaten much, if anything, from her mouth covered from what was like a muzzle.

After awakening a few minutes later when the effects of the tranquilizer wore off, the deer stood up on its own and scampered away.

"I'm sure it had a good meal quickly after," Brock said.

Brock said the plastic handle on what some children use to collect Halloween candy was draped over the top of the deer's forehead, creating just enough tension to keep the container from slipping off her face.

"The relief, the happiness I can't even describe," said Gretchen Worley, who lives at 1714 N. Rustic Drive.

Her home is near the heavily wooded subdivision just outside the city limits, where the deer was tranquilized and most often spotted.

On most days, Worley said she spent hours at a time searching for the deer hoping to get close enough to remove the plastic pumpkin with a 4-foot-long hook pole.

She spotted the deer on several occasions and once got as close as 25 feet from the animal; however, each time, it ran off.

Worley said she also worked with a couple that made the drive from Jasper County to assist in the search with a drone.

Out of habit, Worley said she caught herself trying to spot the animal from inside her vehicle while driving home the night after the deer was set free of the pumpkin.

"I had to tell myself that it's over. I don't have to be on pins and needles. I don't have to have my binoculars glued to my eyes. I got accustomed to it," she said.

Brock said the deer's ability to survive was probably helped by the fat wild animals put on this time of year to feed off when food is not as plentiful during the winter.

He also said only veterinarians in the state are licensed to tranquilize wild animals as long as a conservation officer is present.

Smith said it was getting dark when he fired the tranquilizer gun from the back yard of a home, while conservation officer Alex Toth kept his flashlight on the deer that was inside a wooded area.

He said the orange pumpkin shining in the light above the shoulders and neck of the deer helped provide him with a target through the slight clearing between the trees.

"Luckily, I was able to take a shot and hit it on the first shot," he said.

Brock said deer winding up with plastic pumpkins over their heads doesn't happen very often but also is not uncommon.

Other wild animals, like raccoons and opossum, sometimes wind up with things like bags and boxes over their heads.

He said the objects usually work themselves loose from the animals, though, before conservation officers have to get involved.

Regardless of the outcome, he feels there's a lesson for the public to learn each time.

"It's just an example of being aware of what we're leaving out and how that can affect wildlife," he said.

FORESTS OF SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN' SUBJECT OF NEW BUFFALO LIBRARY TALK

Ryan Postema, executive director of Chikaming Open Lands, will discuss the types of forest communities found in Berrien County and the species that populate them at a Dec. 5 program at 6:30 p.m. at the Pokagon Room at New Buffalo Township Library.

Chikaming Open Lands is a land conservancy group that manages more than a dozen preserves in Berrien County, all with marked trails and all open to the public for hiking. It also acts as steward for conservation easements that protect private land while the landowner retains ownership rights, and sponsors educational events throughout the year.

There is no charge to attend this presentation, and all are welcome. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

PLEASE COME JOIN US!

Holiday Caroling

HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK

Saturday, Dec. 9th at 2:00pm

ENJOY THE FESTIVE COMMUNITY SPIRIT

AT HARBERT COMMUNITY PARK!

Be Entertained With Carols by the Talented

Harbor Country Singers!

ENJOY HOT CIDER & HOT CHOCOLATE!

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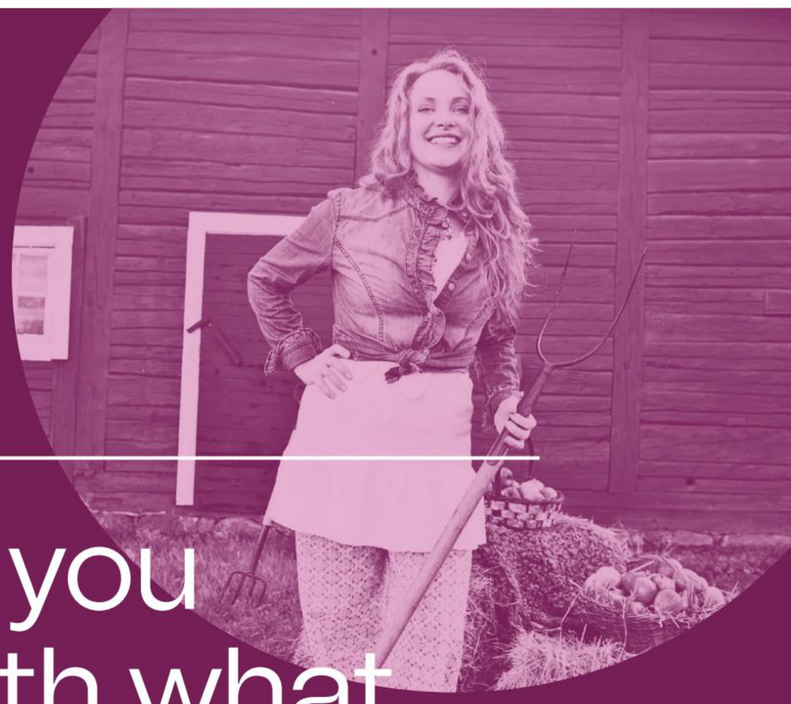

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Members of the Three Oaks American Legion march in the parade

First Runner-up to Miss Three Oaks and River Valley 2023 Camile Czech (left) marches in the parade

Buddy the Elf and The Grinch wave to paradegoers

Newly engaged Margarite Matossian and Lance Cohs pose in the 19th century sleigh outside Heritage Hall

Paws for Humanity was represented in the parade

Byron and Marie Econ pet Prim the Clydesdale at Carver Park

The Williams family poses in the 19th century sleigh outside Heritage Hall

The Alapash car rides down Elm Street

Christmas arrives in Three Oaks

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Wagon rides that wound through bustling downtown streets, a choir singing Christmas carols and a parade that featured Buddy the Elf and a kazoo band heralded in the Christmas season in Three Oaks during its annual Snowflake Stroll Saturday, Nov. 25.

Put on by Stroll Three Oaks, the event invited guests to hop aboard a wagon for a free ride that was sponsored by Harbor Country Collective. Animals had arrived on the scene, as Prim the Clydesdale from Sandy Acres Clydesdales was hanging out in Carver Park. Three therapy donkeys from Paws for Humanity - Minnie, Jill and Daisy - were stationed in Chamberlain Path.

Inside Heritage Hall, The Region of Three Oaks Museum was holding a viewing of "Prancer Village," which is a model of the one that was used in the movie, "Prancer," and had invited director John Hancock to make an appearance.

Everyone lined the streets for the Christmas parade, which featured local business owners cruising down Elm Street in vintage cars, Buddy the Elf and the Grinch riding atop a float and members of a kazoo band - the first time live music was featured at the parade - playing Christmas carols. Afterward, everyone warmed up with hot chocolate and caroling before visiting with Santa and watching the annual lighting of the tree at Carver Park.

A close up view of Prancer Village

Parade goers line Elm Street

Carolers sing on Elm Street

Guests view Prancer Village

A Three Oaks Fire Department truck goes down Elm Street

Members of the Real Life Church choir sing at Carver Park

Santa greets children at Carver Park

Mary Lambert pets the Clydesdale at Carver Park

The tree is lit at Carver Park

Allana and Matthew Winters pet a donkey from Paws for Humanity while Caroline Horist looks on

The kazoo band marches down Elm Street

A tractor makes its way down Elm Street

Bennett McCurtain and Adalynn Carlson speak with John Hancock in Heritage Hall

La Porte rolls out red carpet for Santa

BY STAN MADDUX

Santa Claus was given a warm welcome in downtown La Porte despite temperatures hovering around the freezing mark.

He was in the Santa Parade Saturday, Nov. 25.

Santa later addressed the good-sized crowd gathered at Plaza 618 at Lincolnway and Monroe streets for the tree lighting ceremony, Christmas caroling and other festivities kicking off the holiday season.

His trademark laugh, "Ho, ho, ho," filled the chilly air to the cheers of many enthusiastic children.

"Thank you all for showing up. This is amazing. Beautiful," he said.

"Let's go Santa," shouted a child in the crowd.

Santa Claus in a sleigh on a float was the last of more than 30 units in the parade that included Mayor Tom Dermody waving to the crowd on State Street on top of a fire truck.

"Who wouldn't enjoy Santa coming to town," he said.

After speaking briefly to the audience, Santa Claus took a seat inside his chalet to visit with children, who stood with loved ones in a line stretching for about 200 feet.

Amy Wallisa of La Porte came with her 9-year-old daughter, Mikaela, and the girl's father, Jose, to the festivities she enjoyed.

"It was wonderful. It brings the community together and it brings Christmas spirit. We need that right now. I think everybody does," she said.

Her daughter presented a list of items she wants for Christmas to Santa Claus.

"She's been a very good girl. Hopefully, Santa is good to her," she said.

Other units in the parade included a 1948 Ford pick-up truck still in its original condition.

"I polish it and take really good care of it," said Robert Alt, who borrowed the truck from his mother to drive in the parade.

The La Porte area man said the dark green truck with 164,000 miles on the odometer is still very dependable.

"Love it. It starts every single time," he said.

Eden Riley, 12, also of La Porte walked the parade route with a 23-year-old miniature horse.

"She's very sassy sometimes but everybody loves her. She's good. She's very good," she said.

Among the other dignitaries in the parade was state Rep. Jim Pressel of Rolling Prairie.

Pressel was dressed as one of Santa's elves.

"What a great turnout. Merry Christmas to everybody," he said.

The conditions were almost perfect for getting into the Christmas spirit with temperatures close to the freezing mark, very little wind and plenty of sunshine.

"It's crisp but it feels good," said Amy Johnson, a member of Crossroads Christian Center, which had a float in the parade.

La Porte Events Coordinator Brett Binversie said he was definitely pleased with the turnout and effort from volunteers making the festivities possible.

"We're very happy. We love our community. Happy to see everyone out having a wonderful time," he said.

Michigan a major grower of Christmas trees

BY STAN MADDUX

About two-thirds of Christmas trees in the U.S. come from just two states but Michigan is the next largest producer.

According to USDA, Oregon harvested 4.7 million Christmas trees last year while just over four million trees finding a home during the season came from North Carolina.

Michigan ranked third, producing slightly more than 1.5 million Christmas trees in 2022.

Ranked No. 11 is Indiana with about 150,000 Christmas trees harvested last year, according to USDA.

Amy Start, executive d,irector of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association, said the Great Lakes state ranks high because of its climate and having a lot of ground ideal for raising Christmas trees.

Start said Christmas trees grow best in soil that drains well from being hilly and contains a higher percentage of sand.

She said the roots on Christmas trees are prone to rot if exposed to high moisture content in the dirt.

"Christmas trees don't like to have their roots wet. You'll have to pick a different crop if you live in an area with good soil," she said.

The largest Christmas tree producing area in Michigan and one of the leaders nationwide is Missauke County in the northern Lower Peninsula of the state.

According to USDA, more than a half million Christmas trees come out of Missauke County near Cadillac each year, while nearby Wexford County harvests about 170,000 trees annually.

Montcalm County northeast of Grand Rapids produces slightly more than 100,000 Christmas trees in a season while over 70,000 trees are harvested in Oceana County along the eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan near Ludington, according to USDA.

A decent amount of Christmas trees also come out of the southwest corner of Michigan with the largest producer in that part of the state being Allegan County with more than 60,000 cut annually.

Just to the south, about 9,000 of the trees in Michigan come yearly from Berrien County.

"A lot of parts of our state have that kind of soil that just makes growing Christmas trees the perfect thing," Start said.

Surprisingly, perhaps, only about 9,000 Christmas trees are harvested annually in the state's heavily forested Upper Peninsula.

According to the Michigan Ag Council, more than nine Christmas tree varieties are grown in Michigan, which is more than any other state.

About 37,000 acres in Michigan are also used for Christmas tree production.

Start said the most popular Christmas tree in the state is the Frazier fir, which accounts for well more than one-half of all tree sales.

She said buyers seem to enjoy the soft branches and the length of time the Frazier fir holds its needles.

The Frazier fir is also a best seller at Pinecrest Christmas Tree Farm, which is one of the largest growers in Berrien County.

Operator of the farm, Kris Goodenough, said having plenty of Frazier firs in stock has also become increasingly vital nowadays since more trees are being taken earlier in the season but still last until after Christmas because of their needle retention.

She said most customers at her farm near Galien still come the weekend after Thanksgiving, the traditional start to the holiday season.

In recent years, the next busiest time at her farm, instead of early December, though, is the weekend prior to Thanksgiving.

"People are just wanting to decorate and do stuff so much earlier now. The tree varieties that we sell earlier is going to be the fir trees," she said.

Start said things are actually starting to settle down a bit in what's about a $40 million industry in Michigan.

She said a vast majority of the trees here are shipped to waiting customers nationwide and out of state deliveries, typically, are finished before Thanksgiving.

"Most of them have found their homes already," she said.

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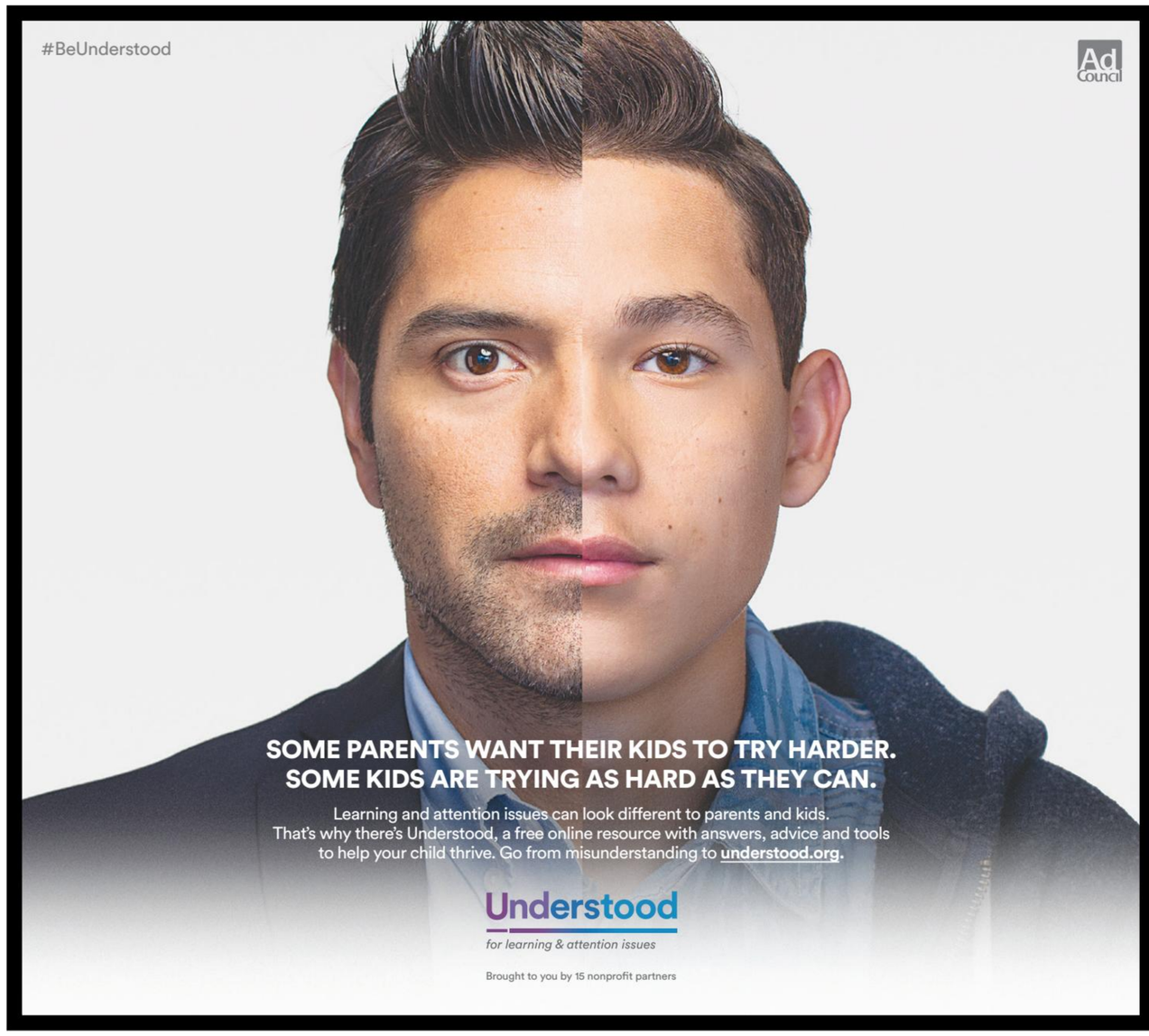
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OBITUARIES

Demetrious P. Kavvadas

1933-2023

Demetrious P. Kavvadas, age 90, at rest November 22, 2023, from Vliho, Greece. Beloved husband of the late Stamo; Loving father of Anthoula Corse; Cherished grandfather of Nicole Corse, Jamie Corse, Melissa Corse, and T.J. Corse; Loved great-grandfather of Caitlyn, Jayden, Jaymien, Marilynn, Emilia, Viviana, and Amin; Dear brother of Andreas (Andriana) Kavvadas, the late Sofia (late Nick) Fatouros, and the late Katerina Kavvadas; Special uncle of Pete, Dino, and Alex; Fond uncle, cousin, and friend to many here and in Greece. Demetrious will be forever missed, May His Memory Be Eternal.

Church Visitation for Demetrious P. Kavvadas will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 29th from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at St. Spyridon Hellenic Orthodox Church, 12307 S. Ridgeland Ave., Palos Heights, IL 60463. Funeral Service begins 11:00 a.m. at the church. Interment Bethania Cemetery, Justice, IL. Arrangements entrusted to Hills Funeral Home, Ltd. Info. 708-598-5880 or hillsfh.com

*All flowers should be delivered directly to the church Wednesday morning.

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

A Day in the Life

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION: SIXTY YEARS LATER

BY LAWRENCE VON EBELER

It was 60 years ago this week, when I was teaching junior high art, that the announcement came through the school's PA system that President John. F. Kennedy had been assassinated.

I was additionally informed of this tragedy by a student, who came up to me and announced "Kennedy was shot - oh good, now we can get a Republican!" I responded by slapping him across the face. I was in no state to stop myself from doing that; it was out of my control. I later called his folks to apologize for slapping the kid and his mother said "Good for you, he deserved it."

A few years later, I was teaching at the senior high school when Bobby was assassinated.. All 800 students gathered at a schoolwide assembly. I listened to the details on my transistor radio, where it was announced that Bobby would survive. I sent a note to the principal at the podium and he subsequently announced the great news. The students all stood and cheered and carried on. I swelled with pride that I had saved the moment - only to find out later that Bobby had, in fact, died. I was grateful that I was never credited with the incorrect announcement; however, later, we learned I was incorrect in announcing the news from my radio.

There is a renewed interest in the JFK assassination, with special programming by Rob Reiner, the esteemed actor, who claims that there was no way a single assassin could have been the only shooter. Texas Gov. John Connally was in the limousine's front seat and had gunshot wounds that had entered the elbow of his arm and another to his neck. There was no way one shot could have killed JFK and wounded the governor in two places. It seems like an illogical conclusion; however, the Warren Commission, which spent seven months investigating, did not agree.

It's an interesting phenomena that the Kennedy assassination, now 60 years later, is still controversial. There were so many theories at the time, including that a second shooter was "on a knoll overlooking the parade route." Since Oswald's gun was fired only once, it seems more logical that there was another shooter. Oswald was, of course, murdered while in custody by a deranged night club owner. That seems somewhat on the strange side. With whom was he associated?

I was always very flattered when people would say they thought I looked like JFK. That seemed to occur when I lived in New York and cab drivers would call me "Mr. Kennedy."

"Thank you Mr. Kennedy," they would say when I was exiting the cab. Even though there was no resemblance, I was flattered. I once had a design job in Washington for the National Gallery and after the successful presentation I flew back to New York, with my drawings on the seat beside me in the cab from the flight as I returned to my apartment on 52nd Street. I paid the driver and left the cab and ran up to my apartment building's door. When I reached my apartment, the phone was already ringing. It was the cab driver, telling me I had left the drawings in his cab! He had no idea the value of the drawings. I gave him a hefty tip and he said "Thank you, Mr. Kennedy."

The Cuban Missile Crisis was indeed a matter posing a threat to the survival of the whole world. Kennedy bit the bullet and stood up to Khrushchev and the crisis passed, with much of the world not knowing how close we came to Armageddon. The landing on the moon was another of JFK's accomplishments. Besides these kinds of results, there was his natural ability for elevating the country's perception as being the most sophisticated and inventive country in the world.

Jackie contributed to that perception as well, as an invitation to the White House was nothing less than "the epitome suavity." It had the same elevated sense as Obama's occupancy in the White House. It's no secret why this old clapboard looking house is now so revered and, in fact, is the most admired house in the world. Before its extensive updating, my wife and I toured the White House and it was downright shabby. I was embarrassed for a few years but Jackie took care of that.

For all of this, and a myriad of other issues, we still mourn the death of JFK. Far and beyond this world, we pray for the President and Jackie, and for Camelot once again.

HOROSCOPE

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 6, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

Work, romance and home life finally balance out. You will feel more in-sync with romantic partners and opportunities to get closer will emerge by weeks end. Communications will go surprisingly well with others because you are in a better place to understand unusual circumstances.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You will be renewing commitments

that may cause you to become more involved in other people's dramas. This could put you in unfamiliar zones of experiences that may not be very comfortable. Be more forthright and avoid going along for the ride as this could lead to regret.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

The pot is getting some definite stirring this week. Living arrangements will be undergoing changes and you may find yourself with a new bed-mate. Caution against manipulative games that stem from jealousy. Expect a lot of odd behavior and avoid drama by keeping opinions quiet.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

It is important you maintain a positive attitude about your love-life. Your desire to have perspective partners be more demonstrative could cause you to lose perspective. You expect others to work for it while you stay in your comfort zone. You are the one who needs to show more interest.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

Your social life will greatly increase this week as you are feeling more flirtatious and outgoing. You will be pleasantly surprised at the amount of attention and invitations you receive. Say yes to those social events because you never know where those social networks can take you career wise.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

The need to entertain and mingle is strong this week. Reach out to those you haven't seen or talked to in a while. Be open to meeting in unusual places and get ready to hear some strange tales. Overindulgence is a possible, make sure you have safe travel arrangements and don't lose track of time.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Family needs and demands may make you consider additional education. You could be in people pleasing mode and any plans or ideas you have need to match with your own goals. Don't over extend yourself physically or financially without making sure you will benefit in the long run too.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Romantic endeavors continue to move forward even though you would like to slow things down. Your true feelings could be at odds with your ideas about relationships. Your desire to be charmed and pursued could cloud your judgement. Slow it down before it becomes a tangled mess.

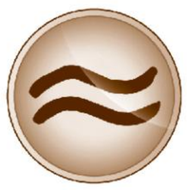
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You will be feeling more serious and will want things to be more formalized. Your ideas for the future could easily be thrown off track by partying and overindulgence. Stay away from energy zappers whether it is food, drink or toxic friends. Stay in control of situations by being more assertive.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Competitive situations will end and domineering co-workers will turn their attentions elsewhere giving you a much-needed break. You will have opportunity to see that some of your behaviors have been motivated by ego driven associates who are jealous of what you have.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



Take time to hang with friends this week and don't be surprised if some past lovers show up on your doorstep. Take this opportunity to liberate yourself from the past. Be completely honest with your feelings and perceptions about the past relationship and don't get sucked into playing games.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

You are feeling more organized and on purpose this week giving you the opportunity to get projects completed once and for all. If you have to confront lazy co-workers, do it in private. Keeping conversations private will give them a chance to talk more openly about why they are lagging behind.

If you accept the circumstance, you're likely to have good memories. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

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Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

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	7	5						
	8	2	6				1	5
	2		9		8		5	
					5			2
			1	4		8		6

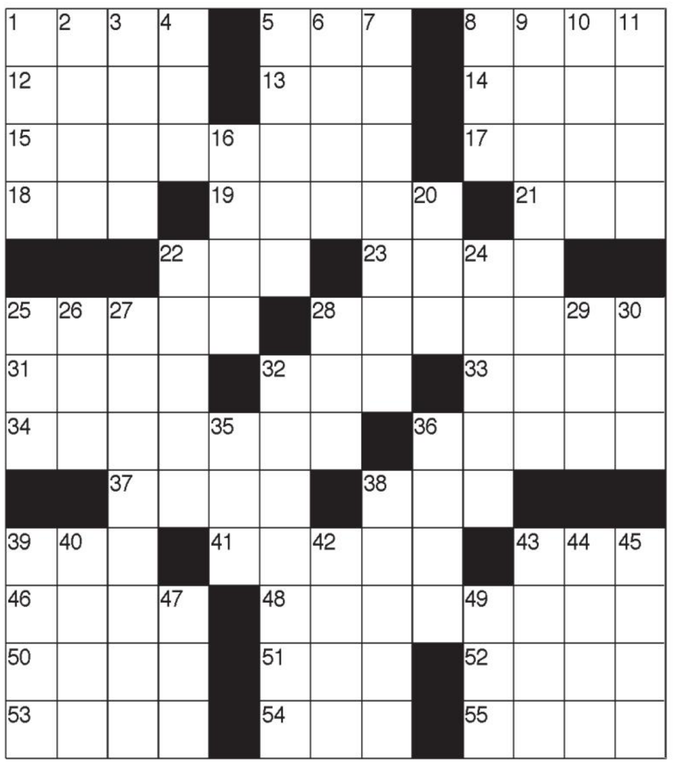
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Chair
5 Electric reluctance unit
8 Wampum
12 Tamarisk salt tree
13 N. Caucasian language
14 P.I. food
15 Austral. island
17 "Dies ____"
18 Yale student
19 Cat
21 Confederate States of America (abbr.)
22 Tin
23 Indian music
25 Hasty pudding
28 One of the Seven Hills of Rome
31 Corn lily
32 Hindu servant
33 Carried away
34 Hold
36 Courtly
37 Yorkshire river
38 Compass direction
39 Bachelor of Fine Arts (abbr.)
41 Eagle's nest
43 Adherent (suf.)
46 You (Ger.)
48 Kipling poem
50 Ironwood
51 Container
52 Appoint
53 Hide throng
54 Scot. cut of beef
55 Rhine tributary

DOWN

1 Loathe
2 And other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
3 Russ. range
4 Democrat (abbr.)
5 Encounter
6 Revise
7 Wild vanilla
8 Greek letter
9 Scala (2 words)
10 Down with (Fr., 2 words)
11 Earth personified
16 Niger-Congo language
20 Edible root
22 Racoonlike mammal
24 Medieval fiddle
25 Thus (Lat.)
26 Outside (pref.)
27 Top
28 Foremost part
29 Adjusted gross income (abbr.)
30 Resin
32 One of the Apostles
35 "Fables in Slang" author
36 Sleeping
38 Fool
39 U.S. mountain
40 Dye
42 Unusual
43 Lower intestine
44 River into the Moselle
45 Phoenician city
47 Enclose
49 Turk. title



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP
MEETING SYNOPSIS

November 20, 2023 –
Regular Meeting

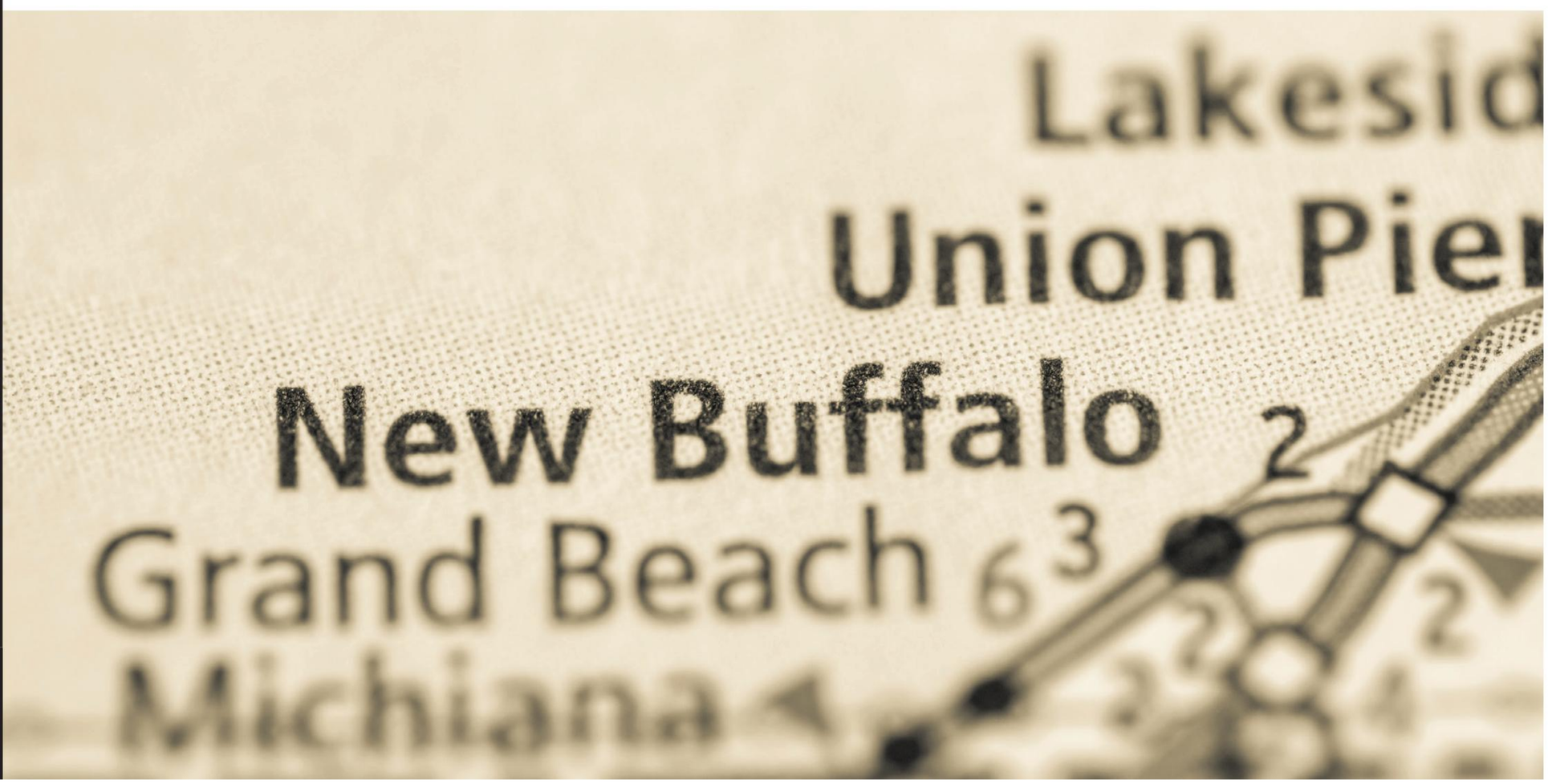
- Approved under Consent Agenda:
  - ° Minutes of the October 16th regular meeting
  - ° Treasurer's Report and Bills
  - ° Payment to Chadwixx Creations for tree carving services
  - ° 2023 Salary Adjustments
  - ° Quote from Some Assembly Required MI LLC for a removing old basketball hoops and posts and installing new basketball hoop and posts
  - ° Quote from Command Cabinets Direct LLC for an equipment box for new Fire Command vehicle and vehicle alterations for the box from 1st In Emergency Products
  - ° Updated Meeting Room Rental Form
  - ° Payment for a storage container for the Park Department to ConGlobal Industries LLC
  - ° Payment to Sentinel Emergency Solutions LLC for fire truck repairs and maintenance
- Approved/Adopted under New Business:
  - ° Agreement with the City of New Buffalo to continue providing supplemental fire services through December 31, 2024.
  - ° 2023 letter of engagement with Kruggle Lawton CPA for auditing services
  - ° Resolution 11202023a adopting the New Buffalo Township Floodplain Ordinance for floodplain management provisions as required by FEMA for the National Flood Insurance Program
  - ° Resolutions 11202023b, 11202023c and 11202023d regarding salary stipends for Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer
  - ° Contract with Todd Roempagel for consulting services regarding the design and future purchase of a new fire truck
  - ° Letter of engagement with Baker Tilly for advisory services related to the US 12 water & sewer special assessment district
  - ° Step increase to the annual salary of the Utility Superintendent effective December 4th, 2023
  - ° Resolution 11202023e adopting the updated FOIA policy, related forms, procedures and guidelines.
  - ° Preliminary approval of a Special Land Use Permit at 19818 M239
  - ° Preliminary approval of a Special Land Use at 19325 US 12
  - ° Partial rezoning of parcel 11-13-0023-0001-11-4 at 19425 M239

JUDITH H. ZABICKI
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP CLERK

2024 REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE
VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH

January 17, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST
February 21, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST
March 20, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST
April 17, 2024 -7:00 p.m. EST
May 15, 2024-7:00 p.m. EST
June 19, 2024 -7:00 p.m. EST
July 17, 2024 -7:00 p.m. EST
August 21, 2024 -7:00 p.m. EST
September 18, 2024 -7:00 p.m. EST
October 16, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST
November 20, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST
December 18, 2024 -5:00 p.m. EST

REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE
HELD ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH



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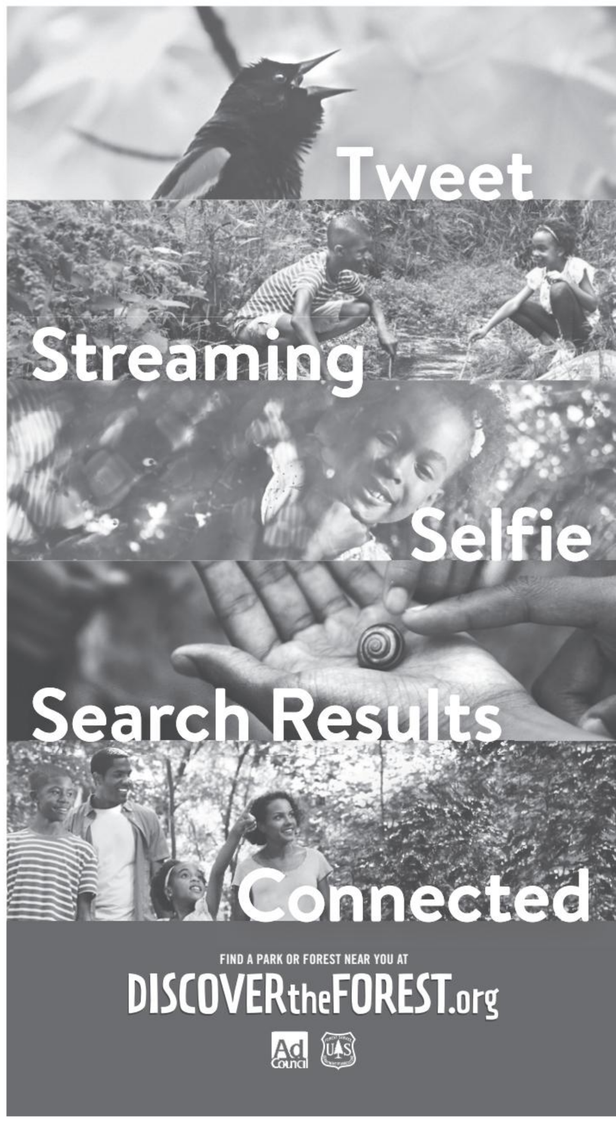

Flourish Books and Plants debuts physical location in New Buffalo

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

In the middle of a pandemic, Jocelyne Tuszynski decided to open a bookstore - a mobile one, that is.

"I was a barista and the coffee shop closed – it was on campus at SMC, and we didn't know when it was going to be reopened," she said.

At the same time, the boating business of her sister, Audrey Bock, wasn't deemed a "necessity" at that time, so she wasn't working full time.

"She and her husband took a trip up the coast of Michigan and said, 'Every beach town has a bookstore, why don't we have one?'" Tuszynski said.

Bock donated her 6 by 10 foot utility trailer to the effort. Within two weeks, it was painted, the flooring was laid out, books were ordered and Bock and Tuszynski connected with the Women's Business Center at Cornerstone Alliance to aid them in their new venture: Flourish Books and Plants, which debuted at the New Buffalo Farmers Market in August 2020.

For three years, Flourish Books and Plants thrived on four wheels; however, Tuszynski said that a brick and mortar was always the goal.

After looking at different locations downtown, they settled on the former location of J and J's restaurant and, most recently, Flip's on U.S. Highway 12 in New Buffalo.

Opening the indie bookstore in New Buffalo made sense, as both Bock and Tuszynski are New Buffalo High School alumnae. Currently, Bock and their mother, Denise, still live here.

Tuszynski said she's also known the owner of Wood, Stock and Grill, who still rents out the kitchen, for years.

"'What if I filled it (the building) with books?'" she said she told him.

Opening day, which was Small Business Saturday, was "crazy busy," Tuszynski said.

"I think most people are eager to see how it's not a restaurant anymore," she said.

The bookstore contains a mix of both new and used books, as well as discount books, which Tuszynski said are unread books that have been purchased back from big box stores. Overall, she said she's priced probably under 5,000 books. Already, a couple more orders have been placed for more.

Genres include young adult, children, tween, thrillers romance, mysteries and cookbooks. Currently, they're building up the nonfiction selection, which includes political science, memoirs and biographies.

As for literary preferences, Tuszynski said she devours cozy mysteries and thrillers; Bock prefers thrillers, "true crime" and nonfiction.

Guests can devour any book in any genre they desire by plopping down on one of the many sofas and cushioned chairs scattered throughout the store and near the fireplace.

The diner side of the building is intact, with Tuszynski saying they hope to offer coffee and tea in the future.

Future events may include poetry readings, open mic nights and author signings.

Bock, who co-owns Flourish with Tuszynski, said she hopes the bookstore will serve as a place for students at nearby New Buffalo Middle/High School to do homework or hang out after school, particularly in the wintertime. In the future, people may also be able to secure a booth that's been left over from the restaurant to get work done.

New Buffalo has a storied past with bookstores: Once, there was one in the downtown, as well as in the former Country Mates building (now demolished). Bock said that she heard there was one across the street from Beer Church, and a New Buffalo High School alumna said that she remembers there being one where the New Buffalo Art Gallery is located in the early 1980s.

"I hope we can make it stick," Bock said.

Tuszynski attributes opening the bookstore to her "inherent urge" to "read books, drink coffee and bake things and sleep by the fire."

"You can build special relationships with books, whether it was a special time in your life or someone special to you gave you that book - now, you always have a place where you're always going to find something new to you, even if it's a used book," she said.

Tuszynski also credits her mom, who made reading out loud a ritual for them growing up.

"We have a bunch of our favorite children's books that, if you are reading it out loud, you must consult Denise for the correct voices or you're reading it incorrectly...She instilled that literary magic in us," she said.

Flourish Books and Plants is located at 17649 U.S. Highway 12 in New Buffalo. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, visit www.flourishbooksandplants.com or follow them on Facebook or Instagram.

Jocelyn Tuszynski stands by one of the bookcases in Flourish

Flourish Books and Plants along U.S. Highway 12

Guests check out the books on one of the many bookcases

Lisa Werner reads to her granddaughter, Quinn Simpson, in the children's section

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